

However, from my talks with many prominent people in Maryland, I have become persuaded that now is the time to take some action here. I have been particularly impressed by the many business, professional and industrial leaders, who are not active in politics, but who think Governor Rockefeller is the best qualified person in the United States to be President and have expressed a willingness to lend their names to a draft Rockefeller movement.

Therefore, I have agreed to assist them in the formation of several committees to organize a draft effort. I think Governor Rockefeller will be affected by the weight of opinion that can develop, and I want to see that Maryland is in the forefront of this technique to persuade him to accept a draft. The movement, I am sure, will probably catch fire in other states, and I hope it does — but at this point it is strictly a Maryland effort. I have not been in touch with other Governors or party leaders in other states as to what we are doing.

The need at this time is to organize and appoint the committees. It will not involve substantial fund raising or financing for the present. What we are looking for in these committees is prestige — to show the quality of leadership, both in and out of political life, that favors and strongly urges a Rockefeller candidacy.

STATEMENT TO THE DELEGATES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF MARYLAND

January 10, 1968

Upon the convocation of this Convention, I expressed my hope that you would draft a document designed to endure; a Constitution which adhered to great principles and still assured flexibility for the future. The Constitution which you sign today more than fulfills my hopes.

Maryland owes a debt to you, the forefathers of the future, for you have created a Constitution which I believe is without parallel in this nation. Throughout the past months you have labored conscientiously, subordinating personal and partisan interests to achieve the best interests of Maryland. The 1968 Constitution reveals in its brevity and honest simplicity the success of your endeavors.

I am grateful to have served as Governor during this historic convention, and I look forward with confidence to the day of ratification.